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with pleasure the dignified cordiality of his greeting, his kindly sympathy in others' joys and sorrows, his tenderness of heart, and his widespread interest in all that was going on about him. These traits continued to the last, even gaining in intensity as his long life approached its end.

CHARLES P. BOWDITCH.

JOHN CUMMINGS.

HON. JOHN CUMMINGS of Woburn, Mass., was elected Resident Fellow of the Academy, in Class III., Section 3, on the 12th of October, 1881. He was at the time well known in this section of the State as generously promoting the teaching of Natural Science in the public schools, and as liberally aiding institutions and individuals in the prosecution of more advanced scientific work. He was Vice-President of the Boston Society of Natural History, and had materially contributed to its museum by the gift of valuable collections, while the botanical specimens were being arranged and multiplied by his liberality.

One of his noteworthy contributions was the entire financial support he gave to the "Teachers' School of Science" for the first two years of its existence. When he was elected to the Academy this school had become of established value in the diffusion of scientific knowledge and in advancing the true method of teaching from objects and natural features.

At the same time he was identified with those who were establishing and building up the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He was early made a member of its Corporation and was serving as its Treasurer, an office which he filled with great credit during a long period in the history of the institution when it most needed the services of a treasurer who believed in it and who had the energy and the courage to struggle with many difficulties and discouragements. To him the Institute of Technology is deeply indebted for its present condition.

He was filling many positions of confidence and responsibility and was highly esteemed in business circles. He was President of the Shawmut National Bank; he had served as President of the Boston Board of Trade and of the Shoe and Leather Association; and he had held important offices in the Massachusetts Charitable Mechanic Association, Massachusetts Horticultural Society, and the Perkins Institution for the Blind; he was State Director of the Boston and Albany Railroad, also a director of the Eastern Railroad. He had rendered valuable service as a mem-

ber of the Board of Finance of the Centennial Exposition at Philadelphia, and he had most liberally served his native town of Woburn in performing the duties of many offices and in the support of its public schools.

Such are some of the facts in the life and activities of Mr. Cummings which made him worthy of fellowship in the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Besides contributing to the support of institutions and working zealously to make the teachings of science more widely known, he manifested a very unusual interest in the study of nature. He made himself very familiar with the various species of plants growing in the region of his large farm in Woburn, and he profited by every opportunity to become acquainted with the minerals, the rocks, and the physical features of the vicinity. He was a good example of that notable class of men who in the earlier days of science devoted as many hours to the study of nature as their secular duties would permit. In all the various fields of work with which he became associated he was appreciated for the readiness and correctness of his judgment, for the energy with which he labored in the causes he espoused, for his invariable adherence to the highest standard of integrity and of right doing, and for his strong individuality of character.

WM. H. NILES.

JOHN CODMAN ROPES.

JOHN CODMAN ROPES was born in St. Petersburg, Russia, April 28, 1836, and died at his house, 99 Mt. Vernon Street, Boston, early in the morning of October 28, 1899. He was elected a Fellow of the Academy in May, 1885. His father was William Ropes, a native of Salem, and his mother was Mary Anne Codman, daughter of Hon. John Codman. William Ropes was for some time engaged in business in St. Petersburg, but removed to London in 1837 and lived for some time at Islington, where a younger son, the late Dr. F. C. Ropes, was born.

After the return of the family to Boston John Ropes studied for a while at the Chauncy Hall School, but at about the age of fourteen he was obliged to leave school on account of a physical infirmity. Up to that time he had been perfectly well and his figure was erect and shapely. But at about that time a slight curvature of the spine became apparent, which increased rapidly until it became a noticeable malformation. This physical deformity did not embarrass the action of heart or lungs, and during his entire life his health was remarkably good. But nevertheless